

To: Adm13McCarthy, Gina[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov]
From: Fritz, Matthew
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 4:14:14 PM
Subject: update information - for reading on the iPad

Some updates – Mathy told I will have add'l info shortly

Chronology and notifications:

Chronology will come as a separate document

of EPA staff/contractors engaged in the response (both on the ground/ and in the regions and HQ):

Region 8 = 76 (combined EPA employee/contractors)

Region 6 = 71 (combined EPA employee/contractors)

Region 9 = 15 (combined EPA/contractors)

All told, hundreds of EPA employees and contractors are at work in response to this incident. More than 100 on the ground in Colorado and New Mexico and hundred more providing direct support in the regions, labs and headquarters – working on analytical work, research, mapping, etc.

Navajo Dam release: when, how much, frequency

August 7 – Bureau of Reclamation increased water releases from the Dam from 650 to 1,300 cfs to help with dilution

(The dam is on the San Juan River – east of Farmington on Navajo Lake)

Toll-free # (for all area impacted by the release):

Toll-free #: 1-844-607-9700 – it is now “live” (English, Spanish and soon Navajo available).

There will be a live person answering the phone to take concerns, sampling requests and follow up requests. These logs will be distributed to us and R 8 & 9 daily in the am. It will also be posted on the website this AM, www.epa.gov/goldkingmine

Contact information for response partners:

ATSDR's information is posted on the website – along with the name of the appropriate official to contact

Other supporting agencies – such as state fish and wildlife – are listed on the site (no contact information – ideally, one would work through the Unified Command to connect with the individuals associated with the response)

Information on how to submit claims is on the website. Additional work over the next couple of days will involve establishing “centers” in the various communities to make the system for submitting a claim easier.

Process to analyze data:

pH values in Cement Creek:

As of August 11 (Tuesday), the pH value for the discharge from Cement Creek was 5.5 – consistent with pre-existing conditions

Single point of contact:

David Ostrander – Incident Commander working out of the Unified Area Command in Durango

Mark Hayes – Federal On-Scene Coordinator coordinating the response in the New Mexico/Farmington area

Plan to provide water in NM:

EPA is providing water to livestock in the vicinity of the San Juan River. The county (San Juan) was supporting this effort over the weekend and EPA assumed that responsibility on Monday, August 10 and we have completed 4 distributions through Tuesday.

Testing – we are providing water quality testing services for private well owners.

San Juan County Office of Emergency Management has established portable drinking water stations in various locations throughout the county.

Navajo Nation – Region 9 is paying for water hauling services to deliver water to areas impacted by the discharge.

Mobile Lab in NM:

NO mobile lab in NM – Region 6 stood up a sample process center on East Apache Street. In addition, they have deployed a mobile command post. The mobile lab couldn't run all the parameters necessary to evaluate the water quality. Samples are being shipped to an offsite laboratory for analysis.

Addressing other mines in the area:

Colorado – 3 active mine assessment/clean-up projects underway including Gold King Mine; Region is poised to initiate 3 other mine assessments

Long-term clean up strategy:

EPA is in the process of developing a long-term clean-up strategy. The primary focus is on the

on-going response and ensuring conditions within the rivers have improved to pre-event conditions – allowing the rivers to be opened back up for recreational uses, the provision of water for drinking and agricultural purposes.